

Claims:

1. A system, comprising:
 - a host processor having an active state that allows a user to specify a policy, and an inactive state where the host processor is inoperative to user inputs; and
 - a device coupled to the host processor to transmit and receive Radio Frequency (RF) signals in accordance with the policy when the host processor is in the inactive state.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the inactive state of the host processor includes the host processor in one of a power-off state, a power-down state, a standby state and a sleep state.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the policy includes at least one selected from a group that includes intranet services, e-commerce services, user preferences, email messages, stock quotes, or Uniform Resource Locators (URLs).
4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a memory coupled to the host processor and to the device.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the memory stores data received by the device when the host processor is in the inactive state.
6. The system of claim 4, wherein the memory stores the policy.
7. The system of claim 1, where the host processor retrieves data from the device and distinguishes cached data retrieved by the host processor.
8. The system of claim 7, where the device differentiates between the cached data for age information and live data.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the policy is defined by a user

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the device remains powered when

11. The system of claim 1, further including an application processor

12. A portable system, comprising:

a host processor having an active state to generate a policy and an inactive state where the host processor is not responsive to user inputs; and
an RF device attached to a card to insert into a slot of the portable system, wherein the RF device after insertion into the slot is coupled to the host processor to receive the policy and transmit and receive Radio Frequency (RF) signals in accordance with the policy when the host processor is in the inactive state.

13. The portable system of claim 12, wherein the RF device transmits and receives RF signals in accordance with the policy when the card is detached from the portable system.

14. The portable system of claim 12, wherein the card is a PCMCIA card.

15. The portable system of claim 14, wherein the PCMCIA card is a Type II PC card.

16. The portable system of claim 12, wherein the RF device receives a policy to communicate with the host processor and change to the active state according to a completion of transmission or reception of data.

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17. A portable computer having a host processor, comprising an RF device to request data in accordance with a policy that stores user-defined services in preparation of a command from the host processor to request the user-defined services.

18. The portable computer of claim 17, wherein the RF device is attached to a PCMCIA card that is inserted into a slot in the portable computer that houses the host processor.

19. The portable computer of claim 17, wherein the host processor is powered-off while the RF device requests data in accordance with the policy.

20. The portable computer of claim 17, wherein the RF device transmits and receives signals in accordance with the policy and acts autonomously from the host processor when removed from the portable computer.

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21. A method, comprising:
updating a policy using a processor in a powered state;
downloading the policy to a device;
powering-off the processor; and
using the device to transmit and receive Radio Frequency (RF) signals
according to the policy.
22. The method of claim 21, further comprising storing the RF signals
in a memory coupled to the device.
23. The method of claim 22, further comprising providing power to
place the processor in a powered-on state.
24. The method of claim 23, further comprising generating a request
from the powered-on processor to receive the RF signals from the device.
25. The method of claim 23, wherein the request is passed to the
device attached to a PCMCIA card that is inserted into a slot in a computer that
houses the processor.
26. The method of claim 23, further comprising updating the policy
with a record of activity between the processor and the device.

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27. A method, comprising:
- updating a policy using a processor in a portable device;
 - downloading the policy to an RF device that is coupled the portable device;
 - detaching the RF device from the portable device; and
 - using the RF device to transmit and receive Radio Frequency (RF) signals according to the policy.
28. The method of claim 27, further comprising providing power to the RF device through connectors to a battery in a PCMCIA card.
29. The method of claim 27, further comprising storing data for the RF signals in a memory coupled to the RF device.
30. The method of claim 29, further comprising coupling the RF device to the portable device to provide the data to the processor.

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